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7 February 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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Italy: [President Saragat may be forced to dissolve the Italian Parliament and call for national elections if new efforts for the reconstitution of the center-left government again fail.]

[Despite premier-designate Moro's failure to form a new government, Saragat reportedly will make a further effort to have another Christian Democrat (CD) reconstitute the center-left government. Saragat apparently is delaying further consultations with political leaders until 9 February in an effort to give the coalition partners time to work out their differences on the composition of a new cabinet.]

[Ambassador Reinhhardt, however, believes there are elements in the crisis which have not surfaced yet and, [] some CD leaders may now be willing to risk national elections.]

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Libya: [King Idris is considering a strong recommendation to Parliament that Libya become a republic.]

[This move is sparked by the King's conviction that the Crown Prince, selected because he was the least controversial candidate, is incapable of providing Libya with intelligent leadership. However, the recommendation may be a test of the political atmosphere, as was the King's threatened resignation in 1964, and would be withdrawn if it met strong popular opposition. The prime minister, Maaziq, would probably try to capitalize on this move, and the King appears to be already preparing the army for the idea.]

[Former premier Bin Halim claims support from Idris to try to form a republican government. Though intelligent and capable, Halim might have some trouble because of his Egyptian birth and a lack of grass-roots support. He was largely responsible for the Wheelus Base agreement and could be expected to maintain close ties with the US.]

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NOTES

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[Redacted]

Dominican Republic: Minister of Defense Rivera has reiterated that he will not depart unless his conditions are met. These include a demand for a "flat presidential guarantee" that no further changes will be made in the high command during the life of the provisional regime. President Garcia Godoy is extremely reluctant to grant this concession, claiming it would allow the military chiefs to ignore presidential orders. He also fears probable leftist opposition to such assurances. 25X1

[Redacted]

Ecuador: High-ranking military officers apparently are divided over whether to replace the present three-man military junta with General Marcos Gandara Enriquez--one of the members--some other military man, or an interim civilian president. The majority reportedly is in favor of Gandara's assuming power and canceling the 5 June elections, requesting the resignation of all civilian members of the cabinet, and taking strong measures to stop student demonstrations and disorders. Small groups of students continued to demonstrate on 4 February in the principal cities, but have as yet been unable to enlist the support of political and labor groups. 25X1

[Redacted]

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*Belgium: A last-minute intervention by King Baudouin has temporarily averted a government crisis. The King's unusual action contrasts with his aloofness from political activity up to now and probably results only from a conviction of the gravity of the political situation, according to the US Embassy in Brussels. The threatened doctors' strike--which provoked the government crisis--has been indefinitely postponed. The possibility of a retaliatory general strike by organized labor has thus been averted.

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